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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Property tax payers fret over official delay

An officer segregates tax payment receipts at the MCC Zonal Office-3, Sharadadevinagar in city this noon. Picture right shows tax forms being collected and verified.

- **"After submission of old tax receipts, we are not called by MCC Zonal Officers to pay tax"**
- **5 percent rebate period extended till July 31**

Mysuru, May 28 (RK,DM &BCT)- With an intention to provide relief to COVID-hit revenues of Mysureans and to encourage speedy tax payments, the State Government has extended the 5 percent rebate period for payment of annual property tax at the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) till July 31. The earlier deadline was May 31 and this extension has been given to facilitate smooth tax collection and to enable residents to find resources to pay tax.

However, many residents are complaining that though they have submitted last year's tax paid receipt and the copies of SAS documents 15 days back for the officials to generate PID (Property Identification Number), there has been no response from the MCC.

As a first step towards online tax payment, the MCC began the process of collecting taxes through PID since May 1, 2020. The system works like this: Each property owner or a tax-payer must produce the receipt of previous tax payments (SAS forms) and the already mapped and allotted PID will be given to them. After the receipts and SAS forms are submitted to the respective MCC Zonal offices, the officer, following the verification of the documents, collects the phone number of the tax-payer and tells the tax-payer that he/she will be called to pay the tax at a given date and time.

Waiting for the response

The benefit of the PID is that when the number is entered in the system, all the property details including the tax due displays on the screen. It is verified first at the cash counters and a printout is given to the tax-payer so that the tax due can be paid accordingly. But people are complaining that they have already submitted the old receipts and SAS forms but are yet to hear from the respective official.

To smoothen the process, each Zonal Office has a notice board that carries information to the tax-payers and a list of mobile numbers of officers concerned are displayed. "I have submitted my last year's receipts 15 days back but I am yet to receive a call from the MCC," Ramaiah, a resident of J.P. Nagar told *Star of Mysore*.

(See PROPERTY on page 6)

Tourism industry in a wait-and-watch mode

- **Stakeholders in Mysuru give thrust to local travel to build confidence**

Bengaluru, May 28 (RK, KMS&BCT)- Tourism industry in Karnataka and Mysuru that has earned global recognition is staring at the reality of having to live with the Coronavirus. With hundreds of tourist spots and being the bellwether for Indian tourism, all eyes are focussed on how the State opens up for travel.

The Karnataka Tourism Society has submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa demanding that tourism destinations be opened up from June 1. Society President K. Shama Raju told reporters in Bengaluru on Tuesday that although the CM was keen to accord permission, he had said that the decision will be taken after consulting the Central Government.

Even the Shopping Centre Association of India (SCAI) – Karnataka Chapter handed over a memorandum to the CM requesting that malls be permitted to operate with precautions in place. SCAI said that a comprehensive standard operating procedures had been devised to ensure crowd management.

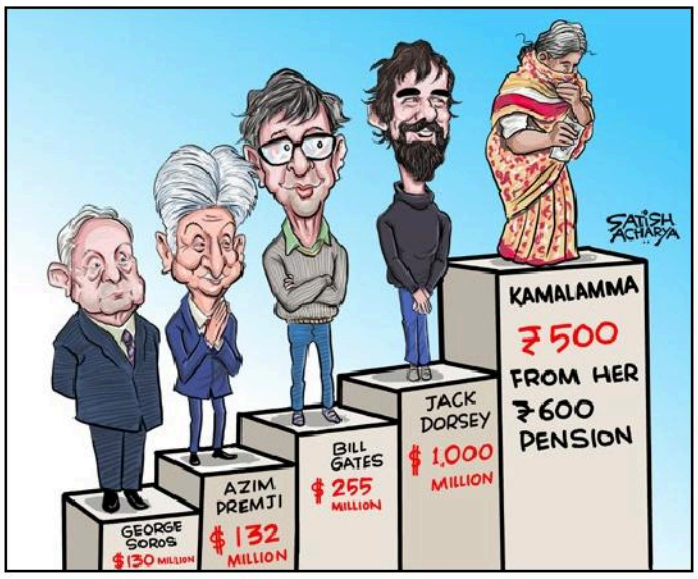
Five-stage recovery plan

Meanwhile, Karnataka Tourism Minister C.T. Ravi has proposed a five-stage recovery process to bring the crippled sector back on its feet, which includes promoting local tourism on the lines of Singapore's 'Love Your Local' campaign.

According to the Minister, the five-stage recovery is based on suggestions received from officials and industry representatives. While the first stage involves creating awareness among citizens on the Coronavirus, the second one will have local tourism activities 'Nodu Baa Nammoora' (Come, See Our City), dining out within the city and 'Love Your Local' model.

(See TOURISM on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



Man from Mysuru, his mom travel 56,027 kms on a 20-year-old scooter

Amid COVID pandemic, they cover 2,600 kms from West Bengal to Karnataka in 7 days

Mysuru, May 28 (BCT)- Not many who so deeply love their mothers would dare do what Dakshinamurthy Krishna Kumar, a resident of Mysuru, did for his 71-year-old mother Choodarathna. He took her on a pilgrimage — a merry scooter sojourn — sitting pillion on a 20-year-old scooter and has covered countries including Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar — a distance of 56,027 kilometres.

They visited all the holy places in India and on foreign land. Krishna Kumar calls his journey along with his mother 'Mathru Seva Sankalpa Yatra' which roughly translated to English means a journey to fulfil a mother's wish. After two years and four months of travelling, both the mother and son have returned to Karnataka and are now staying in the Ramakrishna Ashram at Teggihalli village in Madhugiri taluk.

Not even once his 20-year-old (2000 model) Bajaj Chetak scooter (KA-09 X-6143) break down in the journey that was full of ups and downs, plains and elevated roads. But there were a couple of punctures in the tyres. Krishna was working as a corporate team leader in a private company in Bengaluru and had a handsome salary package.

He quit his job after his mother was lonely following his father's death and when his mother expressed a desire to see some of the temples in Karnataka, he took her on his scooter to places like Belur and Halebid in Hassan. Thus started his 'Mathru Seva Sankalpa Yatra' and both mother and son did not look back, literally. And embarked on a journey covering all the Indian States and reached foreign land too.

Scooter was dad's gift

They have visited all possible holy places in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Tripura, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar. Before starting the journey in January 2018, Krishna Kumar first customised his scooter and made his elderly mother sit pillion in a manner to immunise her from travel fatigue.

The scooter was his father's gift in 2001 and the vehicle ensured door-to-door travel. Speaking to *Star of Mysore* from the Ramakrishna Ashram in Teggihalli, Krishna Kumar said that he is a changed man now. "I have become spiritually inclined and a patriot too. Many temples inspired me and I want to lead a life of 'Tapasya' and 'Dharma'. Swami Ramanandaji of Teggihalli has accepted me as his disciple and I am indulging in 'Swa Adhyayana' which means self-learning without any prejudice or any ulterior motives," he says.

Nagaland village.

Cherrapunjee.

India-Bangladesh border.

Temple at Rongli, Sikkim.

COVID shadow on journey

"We never stayed in any hotels or lodges, instead sought out Mutts, Temples and Dharamshalas to rest our aching bodies. North India is full of them and people were happy to help after learning about our journey. At places where there were no Mutts or temples, we usually consumed fruits and prepared curries out of vegetables that were available to us," he explained.

On the COVID-19 effect on their journey, Krishna Kumar says, "We were in Samsing Tea Garden in Jalpaiguri of West Bengal when the initial COVID storm came to India and when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Janata Curfew on Mar. 22. There are over 283 tea gardens in Northern West Bengal including Jalpaiguri, Alipurduars, Darjeeling Hills and Dooars region. People welcomed us with open arms and we were provided food and shelter," he revealed.

Phone talk with Yediyurappa

The mother and son duo was forced by Coronavirus to stay in a single place for nearly one-and-a-half months. "Seeing our plight, Raju Bista, the Darjeeling BJP MP used his good offices to contact West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Bannerjee and our Karnataka CM B.S. Yediyurappa. After hearing our incredible feat on a scooter, Yediyurappa spoke to me personally and ensured that I get passes in all the States and reach Andhra Pradesh safely. From there, we travelled to Madhugiri and reached Teggihalli Ashram," he says.

Amidst lockdown and spread of the virus, Choodarathna and Krishna Kumar travelled 2,600 kilometres from Samsing Tea Garden to Madhugiri in 7 days and per day, they covered 200 to 300 kilometres. "We did not face any problem at any check-post and our entry to Karnataka was smooth. All over we met wonderful people and the love showered on us transcended language and cultural barriers. Even on foreign land we got love, food and shelter," Krishna Kumar says.

No immediate coming back home

On his plans to return to Mysuru, he says that he does not have immediate plans to come back. "I learnt a few important life lessons in the Akhanda Bharat journey which has made me spiritually inclined and a patriot. I love my country more than my life and I want to dedicate my life to the service of the Nation. To engage myself totally in spirituality, I found this Ashram an ideal place. I find a lot of time to read, serve my mother and move towards spirituality. What more does one need," he retorts.

Krishna Kumar has remained a bachelor to serve his mother and with his new-found love for spirituality, he plans to inspire youth in the coming years with his learning and knowledge. "Indian youth must tread a path of honesty and this is the only way of nation-building. Swami Vivekananda's and Swami Ramakrishna Paramahamsa's teachings are very relevant now at a time when we are becoming morally hollow and ethically bankrupt," he says.

In waiting mode: Anand Mahindra's vehicle gift

The incredible story of Dakshinamurthy Krishna Kumar had struck a chord with businessman **Anand Mahindra** who took to Twitter offering a car as a gift to Kumar. "A beautiful story… About the love for a mother but also about the love for a country…" wrote Anand Mahindra. "I'd like to personally gift him a Mahindra KUV 100 NXT so he can drive his mother in a car on their next journey."

"Yes, Anand Mahindra personally called me and I am in touch with him. In fact, we spoke last week and he asked me to come to Mumbai and take the vehicle which has been reserved in my name. Going to Mumbai is another 4,500 kilometres of travel that looks highly improbable now. Not for the vehicle, he offered to me but I would definitely want to meet him in future. Anand is an inspiration," Krishna Kumar told Star of Mysore when asked about Anand's vehicle offer.

VOICE OF THE READER

Payment of house tax
Yet to receive call from MCC Zonal Office

Sir,

I had written in this column on May 9, 2020 regarding MCC property tax collection. While the MCC has introduced a scheme for generating SAS forms, it lacks in implementation. Every tax-payer is asked to provide a copy of last year's SAS form and his mobile number for generating the SAS form for this year.

I was advised that MCC Zonal Office staff would call me when it is ready. Even after two weeks I am yet to receive any call. MCC should have asked the developers of the software to send an SMS to the tax-payer as soon as SAS was generated. It should also have generated a bank challan for payment of the tax.

Today I had to visit the Zonal Office for the third time, first to search the SAS form from a bunch given to me by the MCC staff in Zone 2. The staff in Zone 3 was deputed on some other duty. Hence I could not locate my form. In both the Offices there was utter chaos and crowding, no social distancing.

Long queues were seen in front of lone bank counter and aged people, ladies standing under scorching sun were cursing the people responsible for this state of affairs.

Fearing the long queue I was advised to come at 3 pm saying there would be few people. Skipping my afternoon siesta, I trudged to the Jayanagar MCC Office at 3 pm where there were already 25 persons in the queue. The IDBI bank counter could not open as it could not connect to the bank server. Finally after standing for one hour, we were asked to cone on Wednesday to pay the tax. So much for the ease of paying tax. When will the MCC and its banking partners realise their responsibilities towards tax-paying citizens?

— H.G. Subramanya
Mysuru 26.5.2020

Government mulls online teaching for PUC

Mysuru, May 28- In a significant move in taking online education to all levels of higher education, the State Government on Tuesday resolved to continue with the system as a new normal in higher education.

Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa at a review meeting of the Higher Education Department at Bengaluru directed officials to extend the current online education in higher education to PUC level too.

At present, the Higher Education Department is conducting online classes for Under graduate and Post-graduate courses. In the current academic year (2019-20), lecturers in Colleges have completed about 79 percent of the syllabus in class rooms before lockdown and the remaining 21 percent is to be completed through online classes by May 31, which is the deadline set by the Government.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Chief Minister was presented a power-point presentation on online classes and impressed by the video shows, the CM directed the officials to continue the same and adopt online education wherever possible, including at PU Colleges.

DDPUE reacts

With the Government mulling on introducing online classes for PUC too, Mysuru District Deputy Director of Pre-University Education (DDPUE) Geetha Srinivas told *Star of Mysore* that at present online classes are being conducted for CET-2020, the entrance test for admission to professional courses (barring medical and dental) courses in the State, which is scheduled to take place on July 30 and 31. But, as of now, there is no Government order on online classes for regular PU classes and the Department is awaiting Government directions in this regard, she said and added that online classes can be introduced in PUC only after the Government gives permission.

Schools in State likely to re-open on July 1

Mysuru, May 28- After an abrupt end to the 2019-20 academic year following the COVID-19 induced nationwide lockdown, Schools across Karnataka are likely to re-open on July 1 for the new academic year (2020-21).

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar discussed the issue with the Department officials at a meeting held in the State capital Bengaluru on Tuesday. Sources said that, however, no final decision has been taken yet and a Government order in this regard is likely to come in a day or two. With the SSLC time-table announced and the lockdown expected to end on May 31, the Govt. has planned to re-open schools on July 1, it is learnt.

DDPI clarifies

Meanwhile, Mysuru DDPI Dr.Panduranga speaking to *Star of Mysore* said that at present he cannot say anything on the likely reopening of schools from July 1 as they have not yet received any communication in this regard from the Government.

Stating that the expert committee constituted by the Government may have recommended July 1 re-opening of schools, he said the Department is currently engaged in preparation and printing of text books. "Our immediate priority is safe conduct of SSLC exam (2019-20) which is scheduled to take place from June 25 to July 4. All schools are being sanitised ahead of the exam and the Department is taking all measures to ensure the safety and health of students appearing for the exam," Dr. Panduranga said and added that the Department is ready to re-open Schools on whichever date the Government specifies.

Webinar on 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat-Stimulus Package for Agriculture and MSMEs' tomorrow

Mysuru, May 28- GSSS Simha Subbhamahalakshmi First Grade College, KRS Road, Metagalli, has organised a Webinar on 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat - Stimulus Package for Agriculture and MSMEs' through Google Meet and Facebook Live tomorrow (May 29) from 11 am to 1 pm.

Dr. C.K. Renukarya, Economist & Director, Mahajana PG Centre, Mysuru, will talk on 'Stimulus to Agricultural Sector'; Dr. M.S. Moodithaya, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, NITTE University, Mangaluru, will talk on 'Stimulus to MSMEs.' Dr. Yashwanth Dongre, Professor of Commerce, Director, Hassan PG Center (retd.), will preside.

All interested citizens, parents, students and academic and stakeholders of education sector can register for the webinar. Registration is by Google Form only (https://forms.gle/NFKyRCf6KAgrrJpx7). Webinar link will be sent to registered Mobile number or e-mail ID. All registered participants will receive e-certificate. Registrations will be restricted to first 250 persons.

IDP launches Study Abroad app to connect students in India with leading Universities

Mysuru, May 28- Students exploring international study options now have a new way to connect with the world's leading Universities, thanks to a new app launched by IDP Education.

IDP Education, global education specialists, launched the IDP Study Abroad app to provide students with the opportunity to explore their international study options right from the comfort of their home.

Piyush Kumar, Regional Director (South Asia), said that the app brings IDP's 50 years of knowledge and experience in helping people connect to the best University course together on an easy to use digital app.

"We understand there are current challenges with travelling, that's why we launched this app earlier than planned. Our goal is to provide students with research tools they can access, right from their fingertips. Studying overseas is a life-changing experience. Choosing where and what to study is a critical decision that can provide a launchpad for career and lifelong success," Piyush Kumar said.

The app empowers students to: Find and shortlist favourite courses from over 650 Universities; Track University applications with real-time updates and personalised notifications; Discover the real local experience with tips and advice from international students.

MICA integrating digital mode with classroom learning since 2018

Mysuru, May 28- Mysore Institute of Commerce and Arts (MICA), Mysuru, way back in 2018, foresaw that digital education would surely step in for a situation which was anticipated to arise. Integrating offline and online modes would benefit all stakeholders.

The College floated its YouTube channel in 2018. Video lectures, syllabus overviews, TIPs to perform effectively in exams were uploaded on a regular basis and the channel got encouraging responses not just by the MICA Mysuru students but also from students across the country.

This encouraged the College to develop an App, MI-Book in 2019. MI-Book capsules Science concepts from the syllabus, in less than 100 words for easy comprehension and retention by PU Science students. It is based on the micro learning principle. The YouTube channel was extensively utilised during the lockdown. In all, 20 videos covering all PU Science and Commerce subjects were uploaded on a weekly basis. The channel has 2,200-plus followers across India, Bhutan, UAE and Kenya engaging in academic learning process.

With the partial relaxation on the lockdown by the Government, MICA College, Mysuru, is conducting regular online sessions to its students. The College has invested time and effort on recording room, technology and training teachers to ensure high quality deliver of online sessions.

The College is continuously engaged in adopting better processes and technology to refine its online content delivery, said a press release from MICA Principal. MICA UG College too conducted sessions via technology to complete the syllabus of even semesters and has now geared up for its YouTube and online sessions for the next academic year, according to a press release from the College.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general that our client Mr. **MOHAMMED ABBAS SAHIB** S/o Late K. Abdul Rahim and **Mr. MOHAMMED ISMAIL K.A.** S/o Mr. Mohammed Abbas, is purchasing the Schedule property from **Mrs. NAYERA KOUSAR**

If any person has any kind of Right, Title, interest, objection, claim or Enforceable charge over the schedule property or to the proposed Sale by them they may lodge their claim/ objection with the undersigned within **7 days** from the notification with supporting documents, Due failing which my client will take it for granted that there are no claims/charges/ objections whatsoever from whomsoever. Any claims/ objections received after stipu lation period of **7 days** will be dated have no claim and the same will be ignored.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the Piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 16, (KAVERI NAGAR KHATHA No. 127/127 Site Bearing No. **16**, as per panchayath Khata record) situated at Layout formed & developed by **"Jayachamarajendra Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd.," "KAVERI NAGAR", Situated at Mahadevapura Road, Hanchya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk,** thereon.

Issued by: Roshan Hussain, Asadulla Khan, Saifuddin Advocates Sadiq-UL-Ameen Complex, Mahadevpura Main Road, Udayagiri, Mysore, Mob: 9916586222.

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

India's Tribal Mythologies

When speaking of Indian mythology, the focus is on the stories, symbols and rituals of major religions such as Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism. We ignore the mythologies of the various tribal communities of India, who have lived in the subcontinent long before the arrival of Aryan migrants. Their stories are fascinating.

The Santals found in Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand speak of how humans emerged from the egg of a goose and a gander, created by the Gods, which included the High God, Thakur-Dev, the smaller spirits known as Bongas. In the beginning, they say the whole world was water, until the earthworms collected earth and placed it on the back of a turtle. Did this story inspire the Hindu idea of the earth on a turtle upheld by elephants?

The Korkus, scattered across the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, tell the story of a deer pursued by their ancestors that disappeared in a mountain cave. While waiting outside the cave, they were met by an ascetic, who gave them some rice to eat. The ascetic then introduced himself as Shiva and asked them to permanently settle down as farmers, not hunters.

Another story recounts how Ravana strayed into the scenic but unpopulated forests. When he prayed to Shiva to populate those forests with people, Shiva directed his messenger, the crow, Kageshwar, to collect red soil from the hilly region. Shiva made two statues from the soil, of a man and a woman. However, before Shiva could infuse them with life, an angry Indra got his horses to destroy the statues. This, in turn, angered Shiva, who made two dogs out of the red soil, infused them with life and drove Indra's horses away. Shiva then remade the two human statues and infused life into them. Known as Moola and Moolis, they are the ancestors of the Korku tribe. The Korku worship Shiva, Ravana and the dog. And the driving away of Indra does allude to some rejection of 'civilised' Aryans, though Shiva himself is a Vedic God.

The Baigas are a tribe dispersed across Madhya Pradesh. They say that in the beginning, there was only water all around and no land. Then, Brahma made land in the midst of the water. Immediately, two people emerged from the land—one a brahman and the other a sadhu Naga Baiga. Brahma gave the brahmin some paper to start studying and writing. He gave the Baiga a tangiya, or a sickle. He also gave the Baiga some kodo and kutki grains and ordered him to start farming. From that day on, the Baigas have been farming, while brahmins focussed on getting educated.

Because there are over 500 tribes in India, and each one has a unique mythology, their mythology is often ignored when studying wider trends and patterns. They are often seen as being simpler, etiological (explaining causes), sometimes proto-history, but rarely having deep psychological insight. This could be the prejudice of the researcher or simply the nature of tribes, where the focus is less on introspection and more on ritual rhythms of life. It is easy to see the influence of Hindu lore on tribal mythologies, but the reverse flow is also true.

Stories of boars raising earth from the bottom of the sea found in Vedas could very well have tribal origins.

[devdutt@devdutt.com

New District Hospital turns out to be a boon for COVID-19 patients

Mysuru, May 28 (RK&DM)- The New District Hospital on KRS road, Metagalli, has turned out to be a boon for COVID-19 affected patients of Mysuru district.

Following the outbreak of the deadly Novel Coronavirus pandemic in the district in March, the District authorities had turned Jayadeva Cardiology Hospital block in K.R. Hospital premises which was vacant after it as shifted to a new premises on KRS road, into a COVID-19 Hospital by setting up Isolation Wards.

But as the number of patients began to rise, the District Administration and the Health authorities, fearing the spread of the deadly virus, decided to stop all other medical services in K.R. Hospital taking into consideration the health and safety of the patients.

Later the authorities decided to convert the yet to start New District Hospital on KRS Road into designated COVID-19 Hospital by providing necessary medical infrastructure, including Ventilator facility and sufficient number of beds to handle a large number of patients. The New District Hospital was inaugurated by Health Minister B. Sriramulu only in February this year, sans any equipment, other medical infrastructure and staff then.

With utmost medical and nursing care, all the 90 COVID-19 patients admitted to the Hospital have been completely cured and discharged. However, one of the two new patients tested positive for the virus later on, is undergoing treatment at the hospital now.

With successful cure of all the 91 patients, the District Hospital has earned the distinction of curing all without any fatality. As the Hospital is strategically located, it has easy accessibility for patients and their attendants, ambulances, other health department vehicles and staff for moving around.

Many Doctors, Nurses and other paramedical staff are of the opinion that this Hospital is probably the first Hospital of its kind in the State. The Hospital is always maintained clean and tidy and regularly sanitised. Once the threat of COVID-19 pandemic ends, the Hospital can start providing all other medical services as it is equipped with all necessary infrastructure now, thanks to the Novel Coronavirus !

A salute through song...

Bengaluru-based SB Talkies expresses gratitude to Mysuru Corona Warriors

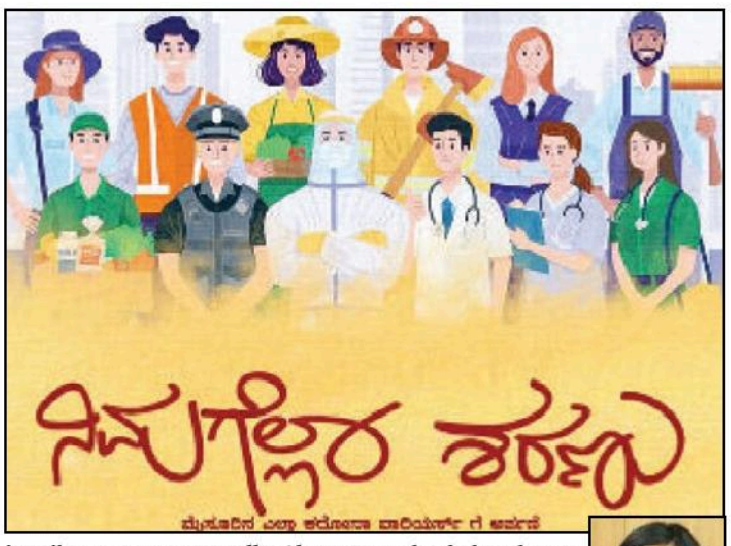
Mysuru, May 28 (SBD&BNR)- Mysuru is being considered a model district for the whole of the country in its fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

The speed in which the number of Corona positive rose had created panic among the people and had also put everyone into worry that Mysuru might top the list of highest Corona positive cases. However, the Corona positive cases, which went up to 90, recovered soon and number came to zero. Now, we have only one case while one patient was discharged yesterday.

So, the district with no new cases is shielded from Corona and all the credit must go to various Departments which worked in coordination with each other under the leadership of the District Administration.

People are taking to various media to express their gratitude towards Corona Warriors who have worked day and night in containing the deadly virus spread. Similarly, Bengaluru's 'SB Talkies - Events and Productions' team has come up with a song titled 'Nimagella Sharanu' as a salute to the Corona Warriors of Mysuru in particular.

The video song features some of the visuals of Doctors, Paramedics, Ambulance staff, Police, Pourakarmikas and ASHA activists, selflessly working during this crisis hour.



The song *Nimagella Sharanu*, which has been shot at Mysuru for five days, is to showcase the selfless services of the Corona Warriors and is dedicated to all Doctors, Nurses, Police, ASHA Activists and Pourakarmikas. It is available on SB Talkies YouTube Channel. **—Sushma, SB Talkies**

Also included are the messages of Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, DCP Prakash Gowda, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, ZP CEO Prashanth Kumar Mishra and District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Venkatesh.

The brainchild of SB Talkies, this song is written by Prathap Bhat. Supreet Phalgun has composed music and has lent his voice. Vasuki Karkon - Cinematography, B.V. Shankar Nag - Editing, Kirthi Gowda - Visual Effect.

Artistes including Rishi, Chandan Achar, Shivaraj K.R. Pet, Indu Nagaraj, Anuradha Bhat and others have also worked for the song.

Jarkiholi seeks Seers' blessings, launches Edu Kaushal App

MP Pratap Simha wants Savarkar's name for Yelahanka Flyover

Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji with Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and MP Pratap Simha during their visit to the Ashram this morning.

Mysuru, May 28 (RKB&KS)- Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, who visited Suttur Mutt and Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram in city this morning, sought the blessings of both the Seers.

The Minister, after seeking the blessings of Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, launched the Edu Kaushal App developed by AVK Resource Centre, an incubate at SJCE-STEP for which the Seed Fund was provided by SJCE-STEP.

Edu Kaushal App is developed for both Kannada and English medium students to improve the academic skills of students from Class 1 to 5, based on their textbook through Smartphones or Tabs and develops listening, speaking, reading and writing skills required for academic progress among others.

The App was launched in the presence of MP Pratap Simha, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, Secretary S.P. Manjunath and others.

Meeting on invasion of locusts held

Speaking to the media, Jarkiholi said that a meeting with the officials of the Water Resource and Agriculture Departments was held to discuss the preventive measures to be taken to control the invasion of locusts, which are invading many cities in the country.

To a question on MLC ticket to former Minister A.H. Vishwanath, he said that he was not the decision-maker and added that the High Command would take a call only after holding discussions.

Naming of Yelahanka Flyover

Responding to the opposition by former CMs Siddharamaiah and H.D. Kumaraswamy to name Yelahanka Flyover after freedom fighter Veer Savarkar, the MP asked the former CMs to visit the jail in Andaman and Nicobar Islands where Savarkar was imprisoned to know about the freedom fighter.

Questioning the Opposition parties, Pratap Simha said why did the Congress party not remember the name of Kanakadasa while naming Indira Canteens or the name of any Kannadiga while naming Bandipur and Nagarahole Reserve Forests after Gandhi family members and why are they remembering Kannadigas now when there is a proposal to name the flyover after Veer Savarkar? The MP felt that the Congress party should wake up and indulge in healthy politics instead of only opposing for the sake of opposition.

Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, who launched the Edu Kaushal App at Suttur Mutt this morning, seen with Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, MP Pratap Simha, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C. G. Betsurmath, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Secretary S. P. Manjunath and others.

KSRTC ridership increases in rural areas of Mysuru Division

Face masks available at shops in bus stand complex

Mysuru, May 28 (RK&DM)- The State-run KSRTC, which resumed bus services on May 19, nearly two months after the services were suspended following the COVID-19 lockdown, has seen an increase in the ridership of passengers in rural areas since the past couple of days.

KSRTC had received lukewarm response from passengers when it resumed operations on May 19 by maintaining social distancing and other lockdown measures.

KSRTC Mysuru Rural Divisional Controller R. Ashok Kumar told *Star of Mysore* that passenger ridership is gradually picking up with each passing day, although there were a few passengers in the beginning. At present, 110 buses of the Division are making 450 trips every day. As there is a rush for Bengaluru, 30 buses are making 60 trips daily to the State capital and only 30 passengers are allowed in each bus, in compliance with social distancing norms, he said.

Pointing out that all buses are sanitised after every trip, he said that hand sanitisers are available in buses and passengers should make use of it. "We are expecting passenger ridership to return to normalcy once the lockdown ends. Earlier the Division used to operate 800 to 1,000 trips daily on different routes, including 350 to 400 trips to Bengaluru alone. Now we are preparing to operate services in full scale as the number of passengers will naturally rise once the lockdown ends," he said and added that the KSRTC staff are trained and equipped to handle passengers in the new normal following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

City buses too witness rise in passengers

Meanwhile, city buses too have witnessed a rise in the number of passengers in the past couple of days.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Mysuru City Divisional Controller M.P. Nagaraj said that city buses lacked ridership when services resumed but it has picked up in the subsequent days and now there is a demand for operating more buses on KRS, Kalyanagiri, Kuvempunagar, Naidunagar and other routes. "We are operating more buses on routes where there is passenger demand at present and hope to resume full scale operations once the lockdown ends. At present there is only one entry and exit point for passengers and all of them are required to undergo thermal screening. Also, all passengers are required to mandatorily wear face masks and passengers without face masks can buy them at the shop in the bus stand complex. A limited number of passengers will be allowed in city buses in keeping with social distancing norms," he said and added that the single entry and exit point will be in place till the lockdown is lifted in total.

Freedom Fighter Veer Savarkar remembered on his 137th birth anniversary

Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi is seen lighting the lamp to inaugurate the function at Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple in Shivarampet today as MLA L. Nagendra, Corporator Pramila Bharath, Dr. Mahanta K. Krishnamohanananda Girigo Swamiji, MP Pratap Simha, former MLC Siddaraju and others look on.

Mysuru, May 28 (PM&KS)- The 137th birth anniversary of Freedom Fighter Veer Savarkar and the 15th anniversary of Veer Savarkar Yuva Balaga, was celebrated at a function held at Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple premises in Sri Tripura Bhyravi Mutt, Shivarampet, in city this morning.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, who was the chief guest, inaugurated the function by lighting the traditional lamp and offered floral tributes to the portrait of Savarkar.

Earlier, the Minister visited Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple in the Mutt premises, had darshan of Lord Hanuman and offered prayers.

MP Pratap Simha recalled the contributions of Savarkar in the freedom struggle.

Dr. Mahanta K. Krishnamohanananda Girigo Swamiji of Sri Tripura Bhyravi Mutt, MLA L. Nagendra, Corporator Pramila Bharath, former MLC Siddaraju, BJP leaders Appanna Raghu, Yuva Balaga's M.K. Premkumar, Rakesh Bhat, Vikram Iyengar and others were present.

After Bengaluru and Belagavi...

Regular flights from Mysuru to Kochi, Goa, Hyderabad resume

Mysuru, May 28 (RK&BCT)- Flights from Mysuru to Bengaluru and Belagavi have commenced, signalling the gradual resumption of domestic air services that were suspended from Mar. 25 due to lockdown.

As per the schedule released by the Airports Authority of India at Mysuru, Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India, and TruJet Airlines are operating the services.

Flight No. 91898 will depart from Bengaluru at 4.30 pm to arrive at Mysuru at 5.30 pm. In the return direction, flight no. 91897 will depart from Mysuru at 6.15 pm to reach Bengaluru at 7.15 pm on all days except Tuesdays when it has a different time slot.

On Tuesdays, flight 919898 will depart from Bengaluru at 3.30 pm to reach Mysuru at 4

pm and flight 919897 will depart from Mysuru at 9.45 pm to reach Bengaluru at 10.45 pm.

TruJet flight 2T-543 will depart from Belagavi at 3 pm to reach Mysuru at 4.20 pm and in the return direction flight 2T-544 will depart from Belagavi at 4.55 pm to reach Belagavi at 6.15 pm.

Likewise, flights have resumed to Goa, Kochi and Hyderabad. Alliance Air Flight 9891 will leave Hyderabad at 6.30 pm and arrive in Mysuru at 8.15 pm. Flight 9893 will leave Mysuru at 8.55 pm and reach Kochi at 10.25 pm. Flight 9894 will leave Kochi at 11.05 am and reach Mysuru at 12.35 pm.

Flight 9892 will leave Mysuru at 1.15 pm and reach Hyderabad at 3 pm. Flight 9898 Alliance Air will leave Bengaluru at 2.50 pm and reach Mysuru at 3.15 pm. Flight 9895 will leave Mysuru at 3.55 pm and reach Goa at 6 pm. Flight 9896 will start from Goa at 7 pm and reach Mysuru at 8.30 pm. Flight 9897 will leave Mysuru at 8.55 pm and reach Bengaluru at 9.45 pm.

The Mysore Airport is fully geared up to handle traffic and the protocol stipulated by the Government in the wake of the pandemic will be followed. All passengers have to check in two hours before the departure of the flights.

Tourism industry in a wait-and-watch mode

(Continued from page 1)

In the third stage, the Govt. will look at the regional or inter-State tourism followed by the fourth stage where preparation will be made to attract domestic and international tourists. The final stage will see staggered tourism activities involving domestic and international tourists.

Local tourism

According to tourism stakeholders in Mysuru, a lot of tourist destinations in Mysuru are ideal for post-COVID travel since space is not a problem and physical distancing can be managed very well. Local tourism can be revived by allowing tourists from Karnataka into spacious destinations like Mysore Palace, Zoo and the Chamundi Hill. This will definitely build confidence in people to start travelling again, they said.

Slowly, tour and travel operators are opening up in Mysuru and travel agencies are calling up their regular customers to sign up a travel deal. "The focus will be on local travel and we need to start the confidence-building measures for the crippled industry to start taking baby steps. This is the only way to support Mysuru's tourism industry," Mysuru Travel Association's Honorary President C.A. Jayakumar told 'Star of Mysore.'

Travel within Mysuru

Right now the industry is in a wait-and-watch mode but is chalking out an action plan. If things improve, then they are scheduled to begin marketing by June 15. "Mysuru has managed the COVID situation well and people will get the confidence to travel. We don't see international travel starting till the end of the year. Inter-State travel too will take time, but travel within Mysuru and Karnataka will be possible," said stakeholders.

There are over 60 registered tours and travel agencies in Mysuru and there are over 100 unregistered ones. "We are optimistic and are seeking a financial revival package from the Government. Tours or no tours, we have to maintain our offices and we have been prompt in paying taxes. We are confident that the sagging industry will be back on its feet. But international travel will take time. We need to start somewhere and the response from the people is encouraging. Faith in the industry must be restored if the economy has to improve," said Srinivas of Bharat International Travels (BIT) and A.N. Aiyanna of Soukya Travel & Tours.

Sources from the Tourism Department said that it will push for inter-district, inter-State and then international tourists. The Union Government has decided to set up a Tourism Task Force to look into ways to revive tourism. The State Government has conveyed to the Task Force suggestions and ideas it has obtained from various stakeholders including hotel owners, taxi operators and travel agents, sources added.

Property tax payers

(Continued from page 1)

"Though we have submitted the forms as soon as the MCC started collecting them and if they fail to generate the PID or SAS forms on time and if the rebate period is over, honest tax-payers will be denied the legitimate rebate," he added.

Officials rude: The same is the case with Narayan, a resident of Janata Nagar who has submitted the receipts and has given his phone number to Zonal Office at Sharadadevinagar. "When we call up the officials for follow-up, the reply is curt and our call is disconnected. Then why did the MCC list the phone numbers in the notice board if the officials are behaving rude," asked Ramaiah.

"I was advised that the MCC Zonal Office staff would call me when the PID is ready. Even after two weeks I am yet to receive any call. MCC should have asked the developers of the software to send an SMS to the tax-payer as soon as the PID was generated. It should also have generated a bank challan for payment of the tax," said H.G. Subramanya, another resident.

PID will ensure that every property has a unique number associated with it and it will help track tax payment and thereby help MCC get the revenue due to it. "What is the point in this delay? Is the MCC still lagging behind in implementation of online tax payment though it has often made tall claims of immediate implementation," questioned Radha Venkatesh, a resident of Yadavagiri.

Expected target of Rs. 100 crore: Also, the State Govt. has said that payment of property tax with penalty for late payment will now be taken into consideration effective from Nov. 1, 2020 instead of the earlier July 1, 2020. By July end, the MCC is expecting a tax collection of Rs. 100 crore as the tax-payer is encouraged by the rebate extension.

MCC revenue wing sources said that in the last 10 days, Rs. 6.5 crore worth tax money has been remitted at all the 9 Zones. "Now, the per day collection stands at Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 60 lakh. But last year, during March and April, the per day collection stood at Rs. 2.5 crore. We are confident that more and more tax-payers will make use of the rebate," officials said. There are over 1.85 lakh tax-payers within the MCC limits and the civic body has set a target of collecting Rs. 176 crore in 2020-2021.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,782
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	5,332
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	350
Persons isolated in facility quarantine for 7 days	:	99
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	1
Total samples tested	:	8,529
Samples found negative	:	8,437
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	92
Persons cured / discharged	:	91
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	255
Persons cured / discharged	:	28
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	2,533
Persons cured / discharged	:	834
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	47
Total active cases in India	:	86,110
Persons cured / discharged	:	67,691
Death toll so far in India	:	4,531

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 27. Media bulletin for May 28 not available)

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